



Management of blood system in disasters

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| Author(s): | Kuruppu KK |
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Abstract:

Managing the blood system in disasters is one of the main challenges for any blood transfusion service exposed to natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods and tsunamis, biological threats such as pandemic influenza as well as manmade disruptions and terrorism. Sri Lanka had to face contrasting types of situations. The most unexpected and dreadful one was the 2004 December 26 tsunami catastrophe which cost >30,000 human lives, leaving more than 23,000 injured. Health services were over-burdened with influx of dead bodies and injured people, most due to drowning. Injuries varied from small lacerations to deeper wounds, broken arms, legs, ribs, damaged organs and head injuries. The National Blood Transfusion Service, had to coordinate its blood supply effectively and to manage large number of blood donors during the first few days following tsunami. In contrast to the acute destruction of tsunami, Sri Lanka also faced a "chronic disaster" of 3 decades due to the separatist war waged by the Tamil Tigers, until it was completely terminated in 2009. There were large scale terrorist attacks using suicide bombers, land mines and claymore mines resulting in frequent influxes of dead bodies and injured patients to hospitals. The experiences of Sri Lanka blood system in the face of two contrasting types of disastrous situations are presented.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biologicals.2009.10.005>

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Human Conflict/Displacement, Human Conflict/Displacement

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal

Geographic Location: ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia

Asian Region/Country: Other Asian Country

Other Asian Country: Sri Lanka

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact, Injury

Medical Community Engagement: ☒

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Other Vulnerable Population: People requiring blood donations

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Resilience: ☒

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content